

Visitor Experience and Enjoyment

Because of its close proximity to eight million people, Point Reyes is one of the top 30 most visited park units in the National Park system. The Visitor Experience and Enjoyment function is implemented with 23.76 FTEs and includes both visitor safety and overall visitor services.

Visitor safety is a large component of this function. Currently, 11.56 FTEs are used to staff this functional area. Managed programs include law enforcement, emergency medical services, search and rescue, and hazardous materials spill response. Law enforcement functions include front and backcountry patrols, boating and fish and game enforcement. Patrol activities include the protection of the natural and cultural resources, visitor assistance, and resource education. Visitor protection rangers participate in and conduct a wide variety of resource management projects including protecting endangered species, cultural resources, grazing management, and air quality monitoring.

Approximately 600,000 people a year visit the park's three Visitor Centers. Twelve FTEs are used to accommodate these visitors as well as providing interpretive and educational programs to the public. The Bear Valley Visitor Center provides the primary means for visitors entering Point Reyes National Seashore to obtain both essential and enriching information enabling them to have a safe, enjoyable, and educational experience in the park. All interpretive facilities offer opportunities for visitors to obtain in-depth information on natural and cultural resources found in the park and to become familiar with ecological and environmental principles.

	<u>Funding</u>	<u>FTE</u>
Available in FY 2002	\$1,850,699	23.76
Shortfall	\$723,051	21.24



NPS



Additionally, interpreters train volunteers to do informal interpretation at the Elephant Seal Overlook and on the tule elk range. Approximately 75 docents contacted over 50,000 visitors at these locations in FY 2002.

To fully implement this Function, the Business Plan estimates an additional 21.24 FTEs are needed. The majority of the additional funding, \$723,051, and staff needs are to carry out environmental education programs, provide visitor safety and to fully staff the park's three visitor centers.



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